

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L S T A T E 2 2 2 5 4 6

FOR SCHAUFELE FROM SEELYE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, AO, US

SUBJECT:SUGGESTED REPLY TO ANGOLAN PRESIDENT NETO'S COMMUNICATION

1. WE ARE CONSIDERING SENDING FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO PRIME MINISTER PALME FOR TRANSMISSION TO PRESIDENT NETO. IT ELABORATES SOMEWHAT ON THE POINTS THAT AMBASSADOR SHERER WAS INSTRUCTED TO RAISE WITH MPLA REPRESENTATIVE

FIGUEIREDO IN NEW YORK. IT ALSO REPRESENTS A MODEST EFFORT TO CONFIRM NETO'S AND FIGUEIREDO'S ASSURANCES ABOUT CUBAN INTENTIONS. IN HIS STATEMENT THAT THE CUBANS WILL NOT BE USED AGAINST OTHER COUNTRIES, AND HIS IMPLICATION THAT ANGOLA WOULD LIKE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE FRONT-LINE DIALOGUE WITH THE US, FIGUEIREDO WENT FURTHER THAN NETO. IT WILL BE OF SOME INTEREST TO SEE HOW NETO TREATS HIS REPRESENTATIVE'S REMARKS TO US. YOU MAY HAVE INSIGHTS INTO NETO'S BEHAVIOR AT DAR WHICH WOULD AFFECT WHAT WE SAY IN OUR MESSAGE. APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS.

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2. BEGIN TEXT OF MESSAGE TO PALME: DEAR MR. PRIME
MINISTER: I APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING THE
GROUNDWORK FOR AN EVENTUAL DIRECT DIALOGUE WITH THE GOV-

ERNMENT OF ANGOLA. THE MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT NETO WHICH
YOUR OFFICE SENT ON TO US ON AUGUST 31 CONTAINED SOME
POSITIVE ELEMENTS, AND PROVIDED AN OPENING FOR FURTHER
DISCUSSION. WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF THE POINTS OUTLINED
IN THE ENCLOSED STATEMENT COULD BE TRANSMITTED DIRECTLY
TO PRESIDENT NETO BY SECURE MEANS.

MEANWHILE, I WILL BE WATCHING CLOSELY TO SEE WHETHER
ANGOLA REDUCES SUBSTANTIALLY THE NUMBER OF FOREIGN TROOPS
STATIONED ON ITS SOIL AND WHETHER ANGOLA, AS ONE OF THE
FRONTLINE STATES, PLAYS A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE DURING THE
CURRENT DELICATE PHASE OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS TO BRING MA-
JORITY RULE AND INDEPENDENCE TO NAMIBIA AND ZIMBABWE
BY PEACEFUL MEANS. IN THIS CONNECTION I NOTE NETO'S AT-
TENDANCE AT THE RECENT DAR ES SALAAM CONFERENCE CONVENED
BY PRESIDENT NYERERE.

GIVEN THE RESPECT ACCORDED SWEDEN THROUGHOUT THE THIRD
WORLD, YOUR COOPERATION IN PURSUIT OF BOTH OF THESE OB-
JECTIVES IS HELPFUL AND APPRECIATED. BEST REGARDS. END
TEXT TO PALME.

3. BEGIN SEPARATE TEXT TO THE ANGOLANS: THE UNITED
STATES GOVERNMENT HAS READ WITH INTEREST THE REMARKS OF
PRESIDENT NETO AND SHARES HIS EXPRESSED DESIRE TO IMPROVE
THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. AMERICAN OFFI-
CIALS HAVE REPEATEDLY STATED THAT THE US HAS NO QUARREL
WITH THE POPULAR MOVEMENT FOR THE LIBERATION OF ANGOLA,
AND WE HAVE SOUGHT TO MAKE THIS CLEAR BY OUR ECONOMIC AC-
TIONS OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS. WE MAINTAIN GOOD AND CO-
OPERATIVE RELATIONS WITH MANY STATES WHOSE IDEOLOGY IS
DIFFERENT FROM OURS.

OUR CONCERN SINCE BEFORE INDEPENDENCE HAS BEEN THAT ANGOLA
SHOULD EMERGE AS AN INDEPENDENT, SOVEREIGN STATE, WITHOUT
THE AGONY OF CIVIL WAR WHICH CONVULSED ITS NEIGHBOR,
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ZAIRE. WE BELIEVED THAT ONLY THROUGH SOME FORM OF NA-
TIONAL RECONCILIATION BETWEEN THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS
COULD INDEPENDENCE AND PEACE EMERGE. THE UNFORTUNATE HIS-
TORY OF ANGOLA SINCE INDEPENDENCE SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.

WE THINK THAT IT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF BOTH OUR COUNTRIES
TO PROMOTE STABILITY AND PEACE IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN
AFRICA. THE PRESENCE OF LARGE NUMBERS OF FOREIGN MILITARY

PERSONNEL IN ANGOLA DOES NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THIS GOAL.
NEITHER DOES THE CONTINUATION OF GUERRILLA WARFARE WITHIN
ANGOLA. THESE TWO SITUATIONS ARE OBVIOUSLY RELATED
AND MUTUALLY AGGRAVATING.

THE US GOVERNMENT UNDERSTANDS THAT, WITHOUT A RESOLUTION
OF THE BASIC DIFFERENCES SEPARATING THE MAJOR FACTIONS IN
THE COUNTRY, THERE WILL BE PRESSURE TO KEEP A LARGE
FOREIGN COMBAT FORCE IN ANGOLA. THE U.S. IS PREPARED
THEREFORE, TO ASSIST ANGOLA TO WORK TOWARDS NATIONAL RE-
CONCILIATION IN ANY WAY IT USEFULLY CAN, IN THE HOPE OF
PROMOTING PEACE IN CENTRAL AFRICA AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ANGOLA.

THE U.S. CAN APPRECIATE ANGOLA'S INTEREST IN ENTERING THE
UNITED NATIONS THIS FALL. WE HOPE, IN TURN, THAT PRESI-
DENT NETO CAN COMPREHEND OUR CONCERN OVER THE CONTINUED
PRESENCE IN HIS COUNTRY OF A LARGE ARMY OF A NON-AFRICAN
POWER, WHICH IS NOTABLE FOR ITS HOSTILITY TO THE U.S. AND
ITS APPARENT BELIEF THAT THE ROAD TO PROGRESS LIES THROUGH
ARMED CONFRONTATION RATHER THAN DIALOGUE. OUR POSITION
ON ANGOLA'S FUTURE ADMISSION TO THE UN WILL BE CONSIDERED
IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CONTINUED WITHDRAWAL OF CUBAN
FORCES AND ANGOLA'S ATTITUDE TOWARD ON-GOING EFFORTS
TO PROMOTE A PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO GENUINE MAJORITY
RULE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

IN THIS REGARD, WE HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED BY THE RECENT
INDICATIONS GIVEN TO U.S. OFFICIALS BY THE ANGOLAN REPRE-
SENTATIVE AT THE UN THAT THE CUBAN FORCES IN ANGOLA
WOULD NOT BE STAGED AGAINST OTHER AFRICAN STATES. RE-
STRAINT AT THIS JUNCTURE WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE GOAL
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WE ALL SEEK OF A PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE
AND INDEPENDENCE FOR THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA AND ZIMBABWE.
ANGOLA IS IN A POSITION TO PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN
THE DELICATE PROCESS EVOLVING IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WELCOMES THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A
CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH PRESIDENT NETO ON THE DEVELOPING
SITUATION IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA. WE ALSO
LOOK FORWARD TO THE TIME WHEN WE CAN HAVE CONSTRUCTIVE,
AMICABLE RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA. END TEXT TO ANGOLANS.
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